

Boudreau, Paul E

SK 30

To: Burger, David

Subject: RE: Rapid Response 01-19

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Orlansky, Michael D
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2006 2:35 PM
To: Wohlers, Paul; Hubler, Stephen A
Subject: FW: Rapid Response 01-19

Today's RRU report includes a note on the "reignited" controversy concerning alleged renditions and secret prisons, which has been the subject of continuing coverage in the European media, including in Macedonia.
Mike

-----Original Message-----

From: Amach, Omar H (PACE)
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2006 1:39 PM
To: RRU
Subject: Rapid Response 01-19

**HOT ISSUES**

France Leads EU3 in Rejecting Negotiations With Iran: Despite 11th hour statements by Iran's nuclear negotiator that it is ready to compromise, French press assert: "the EU 3 is out of patience;" Teheran interlocutors are "insincere;" Europeans are "determined to transfer the issue to the UNSC." European press report Russian proposal to defer formal decision on UN referral until March. The IAEA will hold an emergency meeting on Feb. 2 on Iran's nuclear activities at the request of EU3.

Message:

- ✓ *"The EU has made quite clear that the Iranians have crossed an important threshold, that it is now important for the IAEA Board of Governors to act so that Iran knows that the international community will not tolerate its continued acting with impunity against the interest of the international community."*
- ✓ *"Iran must not be allowed to get a nuclear weapon, it must not be allowed to pursue activities that might lead to a nuclear weapon and on that we are fully united." (Sec. Rice)*

Syria Gets Help From a Friend: Pan-Arab media report the US freezing assets of Assef Shawkat, head of the Syrian military intelligence. *Al-Jazirah* says McClellan "justified" the move by citing Syria's support for terrorism, destabilization in Lebanon, and the insurgency in Iraq. Iranian President Ahmadinejad, visiting Syria, rejects pressure on Syria, the disarming of Hizballah in Lebanon, and any international intervention into regional affairs. *Al-Quds al-Arabi* says Ahmadinejad's visit comes at a critical moment, as both countries are facing increasing American and international pressure.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Message: REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER

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- ✓ *"Mr. Shawkat, as Syria's chief of military intelligence, has directly contributed to Syria's support for terrorism including the insurgency in Iraq, Palestinian terrorist groups, given shelter in Damascus and Hezbollah and other terrorist groups in Lebanon."*
- ✓ *"Mr. Shawkat has also been deeply involved in Syria's ongoing interference in the destabilization of Lebanon."*
- ✓ *"Those, like Mr. Shawkat, who support Syrian terrorism will be held to account." (McClellan)*

Renewed Optimism for Six-Party Talks: Asian media widely report meeting between A/S Chris Hill and North Korean negotiator in Beijing, speculating on the possibility that the stalled six-party talks will be renewed. South Korean press says "Ball Is in US to Kick Off NK Nuke Talks" following Kim Jong Il's statement that he remains committed to ending the international dispute,

Message:

- ✓ *Six-party talks offer the best opportunity to achieve a peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue.*
- ✓ *We remain ready to move ahead to impement the principles laid out in the September joint statement and hope that the North Koreans return promptly to that process.*

UK Memo Leak Revives Rendition Issue: European media report leak of "top-level" FCO memo suggesting that there have been post-9/11 rendition flights through Britain and questioning legality of renditions under international law. Memo reignites controversy over renditions, as will upcoming European Parliament inquiry into CIA secret prisons and recently released Human Rights Watch Report criticizing "deliberate" use of torture by US.

Message:

- ✓ *The US abides by both US law and our international obligations.*
- ✓ *The US does not condone torture.*
- ✓ *We respect the sovereignty of other nations.*

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